

color slate or grayish above, with transverse, brown, lozenge-like bands, their external margins extending to the abdomen with intermediate yellow spots and yellowish markings enclosed within the brown, sometimes two in number; the brown lozenge-like spots become indistinct posteriorly and contain no yellowish spots, giving to this part of the upper portion of the body a sombre appearance, compared with the beautiful variegated robe of the rest; about 17 of these distinct brown lozenge-like spots may be counted upon the back; tail entirely black; throat and chin white; abdomen light straw color without spots, but shaded with grayish. 194 abdom. scut.; 3 bifid post-abdom. scut.; 19 subcaudal; 7 rattles in the present specimen.

*Dimensions*.—Breadth of head posteriorly  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches; length of head  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches; of body 3 feet 5 inches; of tail 2 inches; of rattle 1 inch.

*Habitat*.—Near Pecos River, N. W. Texas.

The reptiles above described were found by Dr. Heermann, Naturalist to the expedition for the survey of a railroad route to the Pacific, under command of Lieut. Parke, U. S. Top. Eng.

### *Descriptions of new Reptiles from Guinea.*

By EDWARD HALLOWELL, M.D.

Family VIPERIDÆ.

Genus ECHIS Merrem.

*Char*.—Subcaudal plates in a single row; nostrils minute, in suture of two small scales; the anterior frontal shields minute, smooth; pupil round; eyes surrounded by small scales; supraciliary shields small, scale-like or single, elongated and distinct; scales elongate, keeled at the tip. (Gray.)

*Echis squamigera*, nob.

*Sp. char*.—Rostral plate much more extended in the transverse direction than vertically; eleven distinct plates along the margin of the upper jaw, of which the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th are the largest; the inferior margin of the eye opposite to the 4th, 5th and 6th; eye surrounded with scales, of which the two anterior are the largest, and of nearly equal size; anterior genials much narrower than the posterior; neck contracted; body slender, compressed, thicker in the middle, with 18 rows of lanceolate and strongly carinated scales; the lateral and inferior rows do not differ in size from the rest, and are also carinated; tail short and tapering with strongly carinated quadrangular scales.

*Coloration*.—Olive green above, darker upon the tail, the scales for the most part tipped with yellow; posterior half of body with numerous transverse yellow fasciæ, about half an inch apart.

Abdom. scuta 155; 1 præ-abdom. single; 1 post-abdom. bifid; 58 single plates under the tail.

*Dimensions*.—Length of head 1 inch; breadth  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch; length of body  $17\frac{1}{2}$  inches; of tail 4 inches; circumference at middle  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

*Habitat*.—Near the river Gaboon, Guinea. One specimen, presented by M. P. Bellonni Duchailu.

*Gen. obs*.—This is evidently not the *Echis pavo*, or *Echis varia* of Reuss, Mus. Senkenberg., band 1, p. 157, 160. It has a certain resemblance to the figure of the *Vipera pyramidarum*, Descript. de l'Egypte, t. 7, fig. 1, but the scales upon the head in that figure are represented as all of the same size, and the markings upon the body are not the same. It has no resemblance to the *Horatta Pam* of Russell, Indian Serpents fig. 11. It is well characterized by the larger scales upon the vertex. But two species of *Echis* have been heretofore described.

Fam. HYLADÆ.

*Hyla punctata*, nob.

*Gen. char*.—Head large, depressed; eyes very large and prominent; skin smooth, for the most part above, with a few small scattered tubercles, quite

abundant, however, upon the thighs; tongue cordiform, quite free posteriorly, emarginate; two bunches of teeth upon the palate between the posterior nares; posterior nasal apertures large; eustachian foramina quite distinct; fingers slightly webbed; terminal pellets large; subarticular tubercles very prominent, third finger longest, fourth longer than the second, second longer than the first. Toes palmated, the web of the fourth extending to the distal extremity of the penultimate phalanx; toes more slender than the fingers, and the terminal pellets much less developed; typanum distinct; tibia about a line shorter than the femur; abdomen and under surface of the thighs very thickly granulated.

*Coloration*.—Uniform brown above, with a few sparsely scattered and small orange colored spots; a narrow yellow orange colored vitta extending from the elbow along the external border of the fourth finger; a similar one, but less distinct, along the external border of the tarsus; color of under surface Indian yellow, deeper upon the abdomen and thighs.

*Dimensions*.—Length of head  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch; greatest breadth  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch; length of head and body 2 inches; of posterior extremities 3 inches; of anterior  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

*Habitat*.—Near the Gaboon River, Guinea. A single specimen presented by M. P. Bellonni Duchaillu, with other species of reptiles and numerous fishes, crustaceans and worms from the same locality.